

THE
HARVARD LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY

*"I cannot choose but impart my fancy unto you in the
smallest matters of the library."*—SIR THOMAS BODLEY.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC PROJECTS:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF ELLESMERE,

AND THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY HER MAJESTY

TO INQUIRE INTO THE AFFAIRS

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM,

BY

THEIR OBEDIENT

FAITHFUL SERVANT,

Bolton Corney.

L. C.

RICHARDS, PRINTER, 100, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

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SPECIMEN

OF A PROPOSED

Catalogue of the Royal Library

PRESERVED IN

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

IN submitting to the Commissioners on the British Museum this specimen of a proposed Catalogue of the ROYAL LIBRARY, it may be convenient to recapitulate that part of my evidence out of which the proposition arose.

Accustomed to consider the non-existence of a printed catalogue of the entire collection of books as one of the most serious obstacles which studious men have to contend with, and after earnestly reflecting on the bibliographic plans which have been pursued in the establishment for the last ten years, I was led to suggest, in order to remedy the evil with as much despatch as might be practicable, I. That the octavo catalogue of messieurs Ellis and Baber should continue to be made the nucleus of the collection. II. That the folio catalogue of the royal library should be reprinted in the octavo size; and III. That the additional articles of the interieaved catalogue, in seventy-eight folio volumes, should be forthwith transcribed and sent to press—the twenty-six letters of the alphabet being proceeded with simultaneously.

I also stated my opinion that a verbatim reprint of the catalogue of the royal library would be discreditable to the officers of the Museum, and that, cleared of its redundancies, it might be comprised in three volumes; points which I shall now endeavour to establish in an alphabetical series of articles and critical notes.

ABDOLLATIPHI *Historiæ Ægypti compendium, Arabicè et Latinè—*
edendum curavit J[osephus]. White, S.T.P. *Oxonii*, 1800. 4°.

[In the folio catalogue of the ROYAL LIBRARY, to which this and the subsequent notes refer, the learned editor is mis-called JOANNES White. M. Silvestre de Sacy writes *Abd-allatif*: oriental names embarrass the readers of alphabetical biography and bibliography.]

ABU MOHAMMED ALKASIM. [Hariri.] *Six assemblies; or, ingenious conversations of learned men among the Arabians—translated by Leonard Chappelow, B.D. Cambridge, 1767. 8°.*

[This celebrated work appears twice: vide *Abi Mohammed Alcasim* and *Chappelow*. The two entries occupy thirty-three lines.]

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ADDISONIANA.

[*London*, 1803.] Sm. 8°. 2 vol.[This compilation appears twice, with a fictitious title: vide *Addison* and *Ana*. The two entries occupy eighteen lines.]

ANACREON.—Anacreontis Teii odæ [Græcè]. Ab Henrico Stephano luce et latinitate nunc primùm donatæ.

LVTETIÆ. Apud H. Stephanum. M.D.LIII. 4°.

———— The works of Anacreon, Sappho, etc.—Translated by [F. Fawkes, Broome, etc.] *London*, 1760. 12°.[The *librarian*—so I shall designate the compiler of the catalogue—has fabricated a title for the EDITIO PRINCEPS of Anacreon, which bears no resemblance to that of Henri Estienne. I fancy he dipped into Frabicius.]ANCIENT critical essays upon English poets and poësy. Edited by Joseph Haslewood. *London*, 1811-15. 4°. 2 vol.[This valuable publication, of which I give the title *entire*, appears twice: vide *Essays* and *Haslewood*. It is also referred to under *Poeta Anglici*—under Edmund Bolton, Thomas Campion, Samuel Daniel, George Gascoigne, etc. The various entries amount to sixty-one lines.]ARVIEUX (Laurens d'). Voyage dans la Palestine—par M. de la Roque. *Amsterdam*, 1718. 12°.

[This curious narrative appears under the name of M. de la Roque. It should have been given to the chevalier d'Arvieux.]

BARBÉ-MARBOIS (François). Complot d'Arnold et de sir Henry Clinton contre les États-unis d'Amérique—(*Anon.*) *Paris*. 1816. 8°.[This work appears twice: vide *America* and *Complot*. The entries occupy ten lines. The author is not named. Consult M. Durozoir.]BARROW (John), F.R.S. A chronological history of voyages into the arctic regions— *London*, 1818. 8°.

[The librarian, by some additions of his own, has extended the title of the above popular work to fifteen lines!]

BEATTIE (James), LL.D.—Scoticisms, arranged in alphabetical order —(*Anon.*) *Edinburgh*, 1787. 8°.[This pamphlet appears under *Scoticisms*. I restore it to its undoubted author. Consult sir W. Forbes.]

BESTE (George). A true discovrse of the late voyages of discoverie, for the finding of a passage to Cathaya, by the northweast, vnder the conduct of Martin Frobisher generall—

London, by H. Bynnyman, 1578. 4°.

[This very rare work appears under the name of Frobisher! We search in vain for that of its author, captain George Beste.]

BIBLIA SACRA. The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments—[Edited by Benjamin Blayney, D.D.] *Oxford*, 1769. 4°.———— Novum Testamentum Græce. Lectiones variantes—adject Josephus White, S.T.P. *Oxonii*, 1808. Sm. 8°. 2 vol.[The above standard edition of the BIBLE is said to be in two volumes, and on large paper. It is in *one* volume, and, as I conceive, on the ordinary paper. The annexed letter of the editor, on which our librarian bestows half-a-dozen lines, has been cut out of a magazine!—The Greek Testament, in splendid binding, is imperfect.]BIRCH (Thomas), M.A., F.R.S. An historical view of the negotiations between the courts of England, France, and Brussels—1592-1617. *London*, 1749. 8°.[This work appears three times: vide *Bacon*, *Birch*, and *Edmondes*. The entries amount to twenty-six lines.]

BROCQUIERE (Bertrandon de la). The travels of Bertrandon de la Brocquière—to Palestine, in 1432-3. Translated by Thomas Johns. At the *Hafod* press, 1897. 8°.

[This work appears three times: vide *Brocquière*, *Le Grand d'Aussy*, and *Johnes*. The entries occupy thirty-two lines. In each instance, the copy is erroneously described as on large paper.]

BUNBURY (Henry). An academy for grown horsemen—by *Geoffrey Gambado*, Esq. Second edition. *London*, 1788. 4°.

[This work is erroneously ascribed to captain Grose. I have unquestionable authority for assigning it as above. The librarian also errs in ascribing to captain Grose the *Annals of horsemanship*.]

CALENDARIVM rotulorum chartarum et inquisitionum ad quod damnum. [Edited by John Caley.]

[*London*, Record Commission,] 1803. Fol.

[This work appears twice in the same column: vide *Calendarium* and *Caley*. It also appears twice elsewhere. The various entries amount to seventeen lines.]

CAPELL (Edward). Notes and various readings to Shakespeare [with *The school of Shakespeare*.] *London*, 1779-80. 4° 3 vol.

[The title of this work, with spurious additions, occupies sixteen lines. The date is omitted. It is not referred to under *Shakespeare*.]

CATALOGUE de la bibliothèque de feu M. Falconet, médecin consultant du roi— *Paris*, 1763. 8° 2 vol.

[This catalogue appears twice, under a fictitious title: vide J. M. Barrois and *Catalogus*. The entries occupy twenty lines.]

CHAUNCY (Sir Henry). The historical antiquities of Hertfordshire— *London*, 1700. Fol.

[The title of the above work, much mutilated, occupies fifteen lines. This is *useless* detail. Upcott, in his *English Topography*, devotes six pages to a description of it.]

DELANDINE (M.). Couronnes académiques, ou recueil des prix proposés par les sociétés savantes— *Paris*, 1787. 8° 2 vol.

[This work appears twice: vide *Academia* and *Delandine*. The entries occupy seventeen lines. Another work by the same author appears under the name of F. A. *Landine*!]

DISCOVERY (The) of New Brittain. Began August 27. Anno Dom. 1650.— *London*, J. Stephenson, 1651. 4°.

[This work appears three times in the same volume: vide *Bland*, *Brewster*, and *Britain*. There are also two references to it. The various entries occupy twenty-four lines. It is *anonymous*.]

EMERSON (W.). The elements of trigonometry.—Second edition. *London*, 1764. 8°.

[The mathematical works of this eccentric man occupy two columns. The above work, alone, occupies nine lines.]

ERCILLA y Zuñiga (Alonso de). La Araucana. *Madrid*, 1776. 8° 2 vol.

[The librarian has fabricated a Spanish title for this poem, which occupies seven lines. He calls it *La Araucana, parte I y II*.—Now, the poem is complete: it is in *three parts*. The words *parte I y II*, relate to the volumes.]

FENN (John), F.S.A. Three chronological tables, exhibiting a state of the society of antiquaries—1572-1784. [*London*,] 1784. 4°.

[This short tabular history appears twice: vide *Academia* and sir John *Fenn*. The entries occupy twenty-two lines.]

FIELD (Nat.). A woman is a weather-cocke. A new comedy—
London, 1612. 4°.
 ———— Amends for ladies.—A comedy. *London*, 1639. 4°.

[The above plays are in the order of publication. To adopt the alphabetical order, would be to set literary history and biography at defiance.]

FORME (The) of cury, a roll of ancient English cookery—[Edited by S. Pegge, LL.D.] *London*, 1780. 8°.

[This work appears three times: vide *Cookery*, *Cury*, and *Pegge*. The entries occupy twenty-two lines.]

GARNIER (Robert). Les tragedies de Robert Garnier conseiller dv roy—
A Rovent, 1618. 12°.

————— Pompey the Great, his faire Cornelia tragedie—
 translated by Thomas Kid. *London*, N. Ling, 1595. 4°.

[Garnier died in 1601, and Brunet notices more than twenty-five editions of his tragedies anterior to that of 1618.—*Pompey his Cornelia* appears twice, and the entries occupy ten lines. The play, after all, is imperfect. The title and argument are in the hand-writing of Isaac Reed.]

*GARRICK (David). A manuscript catalogue of the plays in his collection. 4°.

[In the above title, I follow the librarian. I must add, that the catalogue is an autograph of Garrick; and comprises, in alphabetical order, twelve hundred and ninety-three plays.]

GOUGH (Richard). The life of sir John Fastolff.
[London], Fol. pp. 14.

[The librarian, in describing the above article, commits two errors. He states it to be from the *sixth* volume of the *Biographia Britannica*, and that all the copies of that volume were burnt. Now, it is contained in the *fifth* volume, published in 1793; and three copies of the *sixth*, as far as printed, have been preserved. I have seen one of them, and have a note of its contents.]

GUYTON (De), etc. A translation of the table of chemical nomenclature, proposed by De Guyton, Lavoisier, Berthollet, and De Fourcroy; with explanations, etc. [by George Pearson, M.D.]
 Second edition. *London*, 1799. 4°.

[This work appears *six* times: vide *Berthollet*, *Chemia*, *Fourcroy*, *Guyton*, *Lavoisier*, and *Pearson*. The various entries amount to fifty-seven lines.]

HELIODORUS.—Heliodori historiæ æthiopicæ libri decem [Græcè], nunquam antea in lucem editi.

BASILEÆ ex officina Hervagiana an. M.D.XXXIII. 4°.

————— The adventures of Theagenes and Chariclea. A romance. Translated from the Greek of Heliodorus. [By Court Dewes?]
London, 1789. 12°. 2 vol.

[The EDITIO PRINCEPS of Heliodorus is announced under a *spurious* title.—I ascribe the translation to a Mr. Dewes on private information, but am uncertain as to his identity with Mr. Court Dewes.]

HUNTER (The rev. Joseph). Who wrote Cavendish's Life of Wolsey?
[Anon.] London, 1814. 4°.

[This ingenious disquisition appears three times, and is in each instance imperfectly described: vide *Cavendish*, *Hunter*, and *Wolsey*. I assign it, with pleasure, to the historian of Hallamshire.]

IVES (Edward). A voyage from England to India, in the year 1754.
 —etc. *London*, 1773. 4°.

[The title of this work, though much mutilated by the librarian, occupies fourteen lines. The entire title would have occupied twenty lines!]

JOINVILLE (De). *Memoirs of John lord de Joinville, grand seneschal of Champagne, written by himself—translated by Thomas Johnes.*

At the *Hafod* press, 1807. 4°. 2 vol.

[This work appears twice within three pages: vide *Johnes* and *Joinville*. The entries occupy twenty-four lines. In one instance, the copy is erroneously described as on large paper.]

JOURNALS (The) of all the parliaments during the reign of queen Elizabeth—collected by sir Simonds d'Ewes. *London*, 1682. Fol.

[This work appears three times: vide *Bowes*, *D'Ewes*, and *Parliaments*. The entries occupy eighteen lines.]

KNIGHT (E. Cornelia). A description of Latium or la Campagna di Roma. [*Anon.*] *London*, 1805. 4°.

[The librarian ascribes this work to a miss Letitia Knight—an error the more remarkable, as the volume is dedicated to the queen.]

KYD (Thomas). The Spanish tragedy: or, Hieronimo is mad againe. [*Anon.*] *London*, 1633. 4°.

[There are six editions of *The Spanish tragedy*, of earlier date than the above. The entry occupies seven lines.]

LINSCHOTEN (John Hvighen van) his discours of voyages into ye Easte and West Indies. [Translated by W. Phillip.]

London, by I. Wolfe. [1598.] Fol.

[The librarian neither names the translator of this fine volume, nor gives it a date. Now the initials of the translator appear three times in it, and so does the date. There is no doubt as to identity. Phillip announced the translation, some months before, in a dedication to sir James Scudamore.]

LYSONS (The rev. Daniel). Account of Hampton-Court palace.

[*London*.] Fol.

[This article is from the *Middlesex Parishes*, pp. 58-72. The vignette, plan, and seven views, are coloured. It should not appear under Mr. Samuel Lysons, though he bore the expense of the separate impression.]

MONNOIES des barons de France. Recueillies par M. de Boze.

[*Paris*.] 4°. 45 plates.

[This rare work is from the collection of M. de Lamoignon, No. 4952—which article the librarian has copied! His *François de Boze* is a nonentity. We owe the work to M. Claude Gros de Boze, garde des médailles du cabinet du roi, etc.]

MULLER (G. P.). Voyages et découvertes faites par les Russes le long des côtes de la Mer Glaciale—etc. Traduits par C. G. F. Dumas. *Amsterdam*, 1766. 12°. 2 vol.

[This work appears twice: vide *Dumas* and *Muller*. The entries occupy nineteen lines. G. P. Muller is an error of the translator. M. Depping names him Gérard Frédéric Muller.]

NEVE (Philip). Cursory remarks on some of the ancient English poets, particularly Milton. [*Anon.*] *London*, 1789. 8°. L.P.

[This work appears twice: vide *Milton* and *Neve*. It is not stated to be anonymous. I ascribe it to Philip Neve, on the authority of a manuscript note of James Bindley, Esq.]

OSSIAN. Temora, an ancient epic poem—translated by James Macpherson. *London*, 1763. 4°. L.P.

[This poem appears twice—perhaps without much impropriety: vide *Macpherson* and *Ossian*. The entries occupy twelve lines.]

- P. (H.) The mastive, or young-whelp of the olde-dogge. Epigrams and satyrs. *London*, R. Meighen, etc., 4°.

[This work appears three times: vide *Mastive*, *H. P.*, and *Poeta*. The entries occupy nine lines. In one instance it is described as dateless; in another, it is dated 1615. In fact, the imprint is mutilated.]

- PECKHAM (Sir George). A trve reporte of the late discoveries, and possession, taken in the right of the crowne of Englande, of the Newfound Landes: by that valiaunt and worthye gentleman, sir Humfrey Gilbert knight. — *London*, I. Hinde, 1583. 4°.

[The above rare work appears under the name of sir Humfrey Gilbert. It was written by sir George Peckham: vide the dedication and Hakluyt. This copy is imperfect. The librarian, I fear, was no hand at collation.]

- PELLICER (Juan Antonio). Tratado historico sobre el origen y progresos de la comedia y del histrionismo en España — por D. Casiano Pellicer. *Madrid*, 1804. Sm. 8°. 2 vol.

[I ascribe this work as above, on the manuscript authority of Pellicer himself, and of J. P. Kemble, Esq.—D. Casiano Pellicer, who lent his name on this occasion, was a nephew of the author.]

- QUATREMERRE-DE-QUINCY (M.). Le Jupiter Olympien, ou l'art de la sculpture antique — *Paris*, 1815. Fol.

[The title of the above volume is given incorrectly. Though shortened, it occupies eight lines. The work is not referred to under *Sculptura*.]

- RALEGH (Sir Walter). A report of the trvth of the fight about the Iles of Açores—[*Anon.*] *London*, W. Ponsonbie, 1591. 4°.

[This article appears twice: vide *Armada* and *Reports*. The entries occupy nine lines. The author is not named. It was "penned," says Hakluyt, "by the honourable Sir Walter Raleigh, knight."]

- RIPA (Cesare). Iconology; or, a collection of emblematical figures—by George Richardson. *London*, 1778-9. Fol. 2 vol.

[This work appears twice within six pages: vide *Richardson* and *Ripa*. The entries occupy seventeen lines.]

- ROBERT of Gloucester's Chronicle. Transcrib'd, and now first publish'd, from a Ms. in the Harleian Library, by Thomas Hearne, M.A. *Oxford*, 1724. 8°. L.P. 2 vol.
[*London*, 1810] 8°. L.P. 2 vol.

[Each edition of this work appears twice: vide *Hearne* and *Robert of Gloucester*. The four entries amount to thirty-two lines.]

- ROUSSEAU (J. B. L. J.). Description du pachalik de Bagdad—[*Anon.*] *Paris*, 1809. 8°.

[This work appears three times: vide *Bagdad*, *M.****, and *Silvestre de Sacy*. The entries amount to twenty-three lines. The author is not named.]

- Six old plays, on which Shakspeare founded his *Measure for measure*, etc. [Edited by J. Nichols.] *London*, 1779. Sm. 8°. 2 vol.

[This publication appears three times: vide *Nichols*, *Poeta*, and *Shakspeare*. The entries occupy seventeen lines.]

- SMITH (William) and William Webb. The vale-royall of England. or, the county palatine of Chester illustrated.—*London*, 1656. Fol.

[This work appears three times: vide *King*, *Smith* and *Webb*. The entries occupy fourteen lines. It is not referred to under *Chester*.]

SMITHES (Sir Thomas) voyage and entertainment in Russia.—
[*Anon.*] London, 1605. 4°.

[This anonymous work appears under sir Thomas Smith, *secretary of state*—who died in 1577. It relates to the embassy of sir Thomas Smith, Governor of the East-India company, in 1604.]

SPENSER (Edmund). Complaints. Containing sundrie small poems of the worlds vanitie—By Ed. Sp. Lond. W. Ponsonbie, 1591. 4°.

[The librarian has extended the title of the above volume to nine lines. He omits to state that it does not bear the name of Spenser.]

*THORKELIN (G. J.). A catalogue consisting of 2085 books relative to the Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, and Icelandic literature and philology, written by the natives, and published within the borders of Scandinavia.—A collection made for purpose during a time of more than twenty years. Fol. pp. 225.

[This classed catalogue seems to be in the hand-writing of professor Thorkelin.—The librarian curtails the title, and erroneously adds: (*now deposited in this library.*) The fact is, about eight hundred articles were purchased, and they are entered in a separate catalogue. The transaction took place in 1788.]

TYTLER (A. F.). Essay on the principles of translation. [*Anon.*] London, 1791. 8°.

[This article appears twice: vide *Essay and Translation*. "It may be considered," says Alison, "as one of the standard works of English criticism"; but our librarian could not discover the name of its author.]

VILLIERS (George). The works of his grace George Villiers, duke of Buckingham—with memoirs, etc., by T. Evans. London, 1775. Sm. 8°. 2 vol.

[These volumes are ascribed to John Sheffield, duke of Buckingham. There is a reference to *Villiers* under *Buckingham*—but the name is omitted. The humble compilers of sheet catalogues seldom commit such errors.]

UMFREVILLE (Edward). The present state of Hudson's Bay.— London, 1790. 8°.

[The title of this work, though somewhat curtailed by the librarian, occupies eight lines.]

WALKER (John). A critical pronouncing dictionary and expositor of the English language.— London, 1791. 4°.

[As a relief from criticism, I give the above title as it appears in the catalogue. The *entire* title would have occupied more than twelve times the space, which proves the necessity of occasional curtailment.]

WINGFIELD (Col. Anthony). A true coppie of a discourse written by a gentleman, employed in the late voyage of Spaine and Portingale—[*Anon.*] London, T. Woodcock, 1589. 4°.

[This narrative appears twice: vide *Discourse and Drake*. The entries occupy fifteen lines. The author is not named. I ascribe it to Col. Wingfield on the authority of Hakluyt.]

XENOPHON. The science of good husbandry—translated by R. Bradley, F.R.S. London, 1727. 8°.

[This work appears twice: vide *Bradley and Xenophon*. The entries occupy eight lines.]

YOUNG, A.M. (The rev. George) and John Bird. A geological survey of the Yorkshire coast— Whitby, 1822. 4. L.P.

[The above meritorious volume was a joint production. Bird should therefore have been named here, with a cross-reference in the order of the alphabet. This was the subscription copy on royal paper.]



ZOROASTRE. Zend-Avesta, ouvrage de Zoroastre — traduit par M. Anquetil du Perron. Paris, 1771. 4°. 2 vol.

[This work appears twice: vide *Anquetil du Perron* and *Zoroastre*. The entries occupy twenty lines.]

I leave this specimen to its fate, designing to explain it elsewhere. In estimating its claims, the admission of cross-references is to be assumed, and the articles marked with an asterisk are to be excluded.

On reviewing my memoranda, I am compelled to declare that this splendid catalogue teems with faults of the worst nature—with errors in names—with errors in the ascription of works—with *spurious* titles—with redundant titles—and with the most absurd repetitions.

ERRORS in names. We have Aiken for Aikin, Alkin for Alken, Capel for Capell, Coneybeare for Conybeare, Hatchard for Hatcher, Moss for Moses, Schobel for Shoberl, Wheatley for Whately, Whitworth for Whitworth, etc.

ERRORS in the ascription of works. To the works mis-ascribed, I can add *Advice to the British army*, the *Account of Greenwich Hospital*, the *Catalogue of the London Institution*, etc.

SPURIOUS titles. I have already noticed some *spurious* titles; and on comparing various articles of this catalogue with other catalogues on which I can rely, am led to conclude that no dependance can be placed on its fidelity. I will instance the *Ariosto* of 1584, and *Memoirs of the abbé Edgeworth*, 1815.

REDUNDANT titles. The most common works sometimes occupy twelve or fourteen lines: vide N. *Atcheson*, D. E. *Baker*, J. *Egerton*, D. De *Foe*, H. *Lemoine*, etc.—I have noticed about fifty articles which occupy from fifteen to twenty-five lines, and three which exceed that number!

REPETITIONS. The following articles appear three times, verbatim or with slight alterations: *The antiquarian cabinet*, *The antiquarian repertory*, *The historie of prynce Arthur*, *A battle-door to learn singular & plural*, *A collection of prologues and epilogues*, *The Turkish spy*, etc.—To conclude: whole columns, whole classes, are repeated! Examine *Ana*, *Hearne*, *Ritson*, and *Catalogus*: the latter class, exclusive of repetitions, occupies sixty columns!

Believing that the Commissioners will not advise a reprint of this catalogue, I shall repeat my opinion that it might be comprised in three octavo volumes. The 438 manuscripts would require only a brief notice, as they are described in a catalogue of recent date.

There is, however, a collection of 20,000 *pamphlets* which form part of the library. They are uniformly half-bound, and the titles are entered in an interleaved catalogue of the books, in ten volumes. Of this collection, I would suggest a *one-line* catalogue, in the order of time; and without any attempt to name the authors of the anonymous works. Such a catalogue might be expeditiously compiled, and it would require only an additional volume.